

Message Text

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73

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 FBIE-00 USSS-00 SY-10

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9952

INFO AMEMBASSY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEHBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

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DEPT PASS SAN'A PRIORITY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS EG

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATION AT EGYPTIAN MISSION

1. AT ABOUT 5:00 PM, TCT 7, EGYPTIAN PERMREP MEGUID TELEPHONED AND WITH GREAT AGITATION REPORTED THAT HIS MISSION BEING STONED BY MOB. UNLESS US AUTHORITIES ABLE TO REMOVE MOB WITHIN FIFTEEN MINUTES HE THREATENED TO ORDER HIS SECURITY PEOPLE TO FIRE ON ATTACKERS. I TRIED TO CALM HIM AND TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD IMMEDIATELY URGE AUTHORITIES TO TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES. AT THIS END, I SPOKE URGENTLY WITH ACTING MAYOR ED HAMILTON AND WITH SENIOR POLICE AUTHORITIES URGING SIZEABLE POLICE RE-INFORCEMENTS BE SENT IMMEDIATELY TO SCENE TO PREVENT BLOODSHED.

2. ON RECEIVING A SECOND TELEPHONE CALL FROM AMB MEGUID ABOUT 5:45 PM COMPLAINING THAT MY EFFORTS TO ARRANGE ADEQUATE RE-

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INFORCEMENTS TO PROTECT EGYPTIAN MISSION PREMISES AND ARAB

FONMINS GATHERED THERE HAD NOT PRODUCED DESIRED RESULT, I DROVE DIRECTLY TO EGYPTIAN MISSION ON 67TH ST. AS MY CAR, LED BY A POLICE VEHICLE, APPROACHED EGYPTIAN MISSION, I WAS APPARENTLY MISTAKEN FOR AN ARAB DIGNITARY AND MY CAR WAS HIT WITH AT LEAST ONE HANDFUL OF GRAVEL AND I WAS CURSED BY SOME DEMONSTRATORS.

3. ONCE INSIDE MISSION, OFFERED MEGUID PROFOUND APOLOGIES FOR ILLEGAL AND INEXCUSABLE ACTIONS OF A FEW FANATICS. AMB MEGUID WAS INITIALLY HIGHLY AGITATED. HOWEVER, BY THE END OF MY THIRTY-MINUTE VISIT AS HE LISTENED TO MY TALKS TO POLICE INSPECTOR, ON SCENE HE AND THE OTHER ARABS PRESENT WERE PERSUADED OF THE SINCERITY OF BOTH MY APOLOGIES AND MY EFFORTS TO ARRANGE ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR THEM. (LIBYAN, YEMENI AND IRAQI FONMINS AND AMB EL-SHIBIB OF ARAB LEAGUE WERE AMONG ARAB DIPLOMATS AT MISSION).

4. WITH MEGUID, I INSPECTED DAMAGE TO EGYPTIAN MISSION PREMISES, WHICH FORTUNATELY WAS SLIGHT. NO ONE HAD BEEN INJURED. EGGS, STONES, SODA CANS AND OTHER OBJECTS THAT HAD BEEN THROWN AT BUILDING LITTERED WINDOW LEDGES ON SECOND FLOOR.

5. FACE (AND VOICE) OF CROWD AS I ARRIVED WAS UGLY, AND I CAN WELL UNDERSTAND MEGUID'S GENUINE CONCERN. OTHER ARABS PRESENT WERE AFRAID WITH REASON TO PROCEED TO THEIR VEHICLES TO DEPART MISSION. IN PRESENCE OF EGYPTIANS, I STRONGLY REQUESTED POLICE INSPECTOR TO MAKE NECESSARY DISPOSITIONS, INCLUDING PROVISION OF SUPER-ADEQUATE ESCORTS FOR ARAB DIPLOMATS WISHING TO PROCEED ELSEWHERE. BY THE TIME I LEFT, ENTIRE BLOCK HAD BEEN CLEARED AND BARRICADED AND EFFORTS TO DISPERSE REMAINING GROUPS OF DEMONSTRATORS IN ADJACENT BLOCKS HAD BEGUN.

6. AMB MEGUID RAISED QUESTION OF NON-APPLICATION OF NEW FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITING DEMONSTRATIONS WITHIN 100 FEET OF DIPLOMATIC PREMISES. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS PERSONALLY DISTRESSED THAT NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS NLAW APPARENTLY HAD NOT YET BEEN MADE. I DID PROMISE TO HONOR HIS REQUEST THAT HE BE INFORMED OF JUDICIAL ACTION TAKEN AGAINST ANY ONE ARRESTED AT SCENE.

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7. I CALLED MAYOR LINDSAY TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR POLICE EFFORTS IN CONNECTION WITH TODAY'S EVENTS. I NOTED THAT THESE EFFORTS, COMMENDABLE IN THEMSELVES, WERE INADEQUATE TO GIVE ARAB DIPLOMATS PROTECTION THEY DESERVE AGAINST VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT. IN PARTICULAR, I URGED THAT EXTRAORDINARY ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING CLOSING OF BLOCK IN WHICH EGYPTIAN MISSION LOCATED, BE MAINTAINED THROUGH PERIOD OF TENSIONS PRODUCING DEBATE IN UN ORGANS OVER NEXT FEW DAYS. HE AGREED TO DO SO, BUT

EXPECTS COURT ORDER CHALLENGING CLOSING OF BLOCK.

(COMMENT: I AM REVIEWING WITH STAFF OTHER POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD REDUCE PROSPECT OF FURTHER DISORDERS DURING THIS PERIOD).

8. TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE I HAVE JUST RELEASED FOLLOWS:

QUOTE:

UPON BEING INFORMED BY EGYPTIAN AMB MEGUID BY PHONE THAT HIS MISSION WAS UNDER ATTACK BY DEMONSTRATORS, I IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED TOP NEW YORK CITY AND POLICE AUTHORITIES AND URGED NECESSARY POLICE REINFORCEMENTS BE DISPATCHED TO HELP THE SIZEABLE POLICE FORCES ALREADY PROTECTING EGYPTIAN PREMISES.

WHEN I WAS ADVISED IN A SECOND CALL THAT THE DEMONSTRATORS HAD NOT BEEN DISPERSED, I PERSONALLY WENT TO THE EGYPTIAN MISSION FOR A FIRST-HAND VIEW OF THE SITUATION. I EXPRESSED MY PROFOUND APOLOGIES THAT A PEACEFUL PROTEST HAD DEGENERATED INTO VIOLENCE THROUGH THE ILLEGAL ACTIONS OF A SMALL BAND OF FANATICS.

I ALSO PERSONALLY EXTENDED MY DEEPEST REGRETS ON BEHALF OF THE US GOVT TO THE HIGH OFFICIALS OF EGYPT, YEMEN, LIBYA AND IRAQ AND OTHER SENIOR ARAB DIPLOMATS WHO WERE MEETING IN THE EGYPTIAN MISSION AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT.

IN THE PRESENT TENSE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION I EARNESTLY URGE EVERYONE TO REMEMBER THAT THE US AS HOST COUNTRY HAS A SPECIAL OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE DUE RESPECT FOR THE PERSONAL SAFETY, PROPERTY AND DIGNITY OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.

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AN ATMOSPHERE OF VIOLENCE IN NEW YORK IS NOT HELPFUL TO A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE PRESENT MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.
UNQUOTE.
SCALI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SANAA.

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